

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GT

SUBJ: CNT AND CNUS ATTACK CLAT

1. SUMMARY: IN A BITTER DENUNCIATION LAST WEEK, THE NATIONAL WORKERS CENTRAL (CNT) AND THE NATIONAL CENTRAL OF LABOR UNITY (CNUS) LAMBASTED THE LATIN AMERICAN WORKERS CENTRAL (CLAT) FOR TRYING TO SPLIT THE LABOR MOVEMENT. EMBASSY SOURCE SUGGESTS THE DENUNCIATION IS BASED NOT ON IDEOLOGICAL GROUNDS, BUT RATHER ON FINANCIAL GROUNDS, AND BELIEVES DISPUTE LIKELY TO BLOW OVER. END SUMMARY

2. IN A SURPRISING DENUNCIATION LAST WEEK, LEADERS OF THE CNT/CNUS DENOUNCED CLAT AND THREE OF ITS REPRESENTATIVES FROM VENEZUELA (JULIO CELSO DE LEON, JOSE PINZON, AND ADOLFO HERNANDEZ) FOR INTERFERING IN THE AFFAIRS OF GUATEMALA LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESSURING THE LABOR MOVEMENT. MIGUEL ANGEL ALBIZUREZ, SEC GEN OF THE CNT, STATED TO THE PRESS THAT THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IS THAT "CLAT IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES HAS ADOPTED A NEGATIVE AND DIVERSIVE POSTURE TOWARD NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR LEADERS." OTHER COUNTRIES HE NAMED WERE HONDURAS, ECUADOR AND PERU. HE DENOUNCED SOME LOCAL LEADERS GENERALLY BUT NOT BY NAME. SUBSEQUENTLY A NUMBER OF COMPESINO ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE CNT ALIGNED THEM-

SELVES WITH ALBIZUREZ AND DENOUNCED BUSEBIO OCHOA, SECGEN OF THE GUATEMALA CAMPESINO FEDERATION, AS BOTH CORRUPT AND AN AGENT OF THE CIA AND CLAT. SUDDENLY CLAT HAS BECOME, IN ALBIZUREZ' WORDS, "WORSE THAN ORIT."

3. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO AN EMBASSY SOURCE CLOSE TO CNUS, THE PROBLEM IS FINANCIAL, NOT IDEOLOGICAL. CLAT SENT REPRESENTATIVES TO CHECK UP ON THE DISPOSITION OF SOME \$80,000 WHICH CNT HAS MIS-MANAGED. RATHER THAN ACCEPT A CLAT IMPOSED SOLUTION TO THIS FINANCIAL EMBARRASSMENT (WHATEVER THAT SOLUTION MIGHT HAVE BEEN), THE LEADERSHIP HAS CHOSEN TO DENOUNCE CLAT.

4. THE TWO PRINCIPAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CNUS ARE THE CNT, WHICH HAS A "MORE OR LESS" CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ORIENTATION, AND FASGUA, OF COMMUNIST ORIENTATION. CNT HAS BEEN FINANCIALLY AIDED BY CLAT, AND FASGUA BY CPUTAL. EMBASSY SOURCE EXPECTS THE CNT/CLAT STORM TO BLOW OVER, BUT DOES NOT ENTIRELY DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT CNT MAY SEEK AFFILIATION WITH CPUTAL, DESPITE THE DIFFERENCE IN IDEOLOGY.

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